High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Statement of H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad
Mr. Ramtane LAMAMRA

New York, 28 September 2021
Excellency, Mr. President of the 76th General Assembly, Excellency, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished participants,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you Mr. President for convening this important high-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that nuclear weapons all over the globe constitute one of the greatest threats to mankind and to the survival of human civilization.

My country joined the path of delegitimizing nuclear weapons and supports constantly the process of their prohibition as a necessary step to forestall the world from their danger.
Since its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons and under the committed leadership of President Abdelmadjid TEBBOUNÉ, Algeria has been one of its active State parties and principled proponents calling for a world free of these immoral weapons.

We share the concerns of other non-nuclear states with regard to the limited progress made in materializing nuclear disarmament obligations. We are also deeply concerned with the improvements and development of the existing nuclear weapons.

Besides, we call upon nuclear-weapon States, which bear the primary responsibility for achieving nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the NPT, to demonstrate a genuine willingness to translate into facts their unequivocal engagements related to nuclear disarmament.
The upcoming NPT Review Conference presents, therefore, a timely opportunity for the States Parties to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the current status of the Treaty, the implementation of legal obligations and the fulfillment of the previous commitments undertaken within its framework.

Mr. President,

Algeria welcomes the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which constitutes an essential contribution towards nuclear disarmament.

Having actively participated in the process leading to its drafting and adoption, Algeria was among the first countries to sign this Treaty, and remains confident that this instrument constitutes a millstone achieved by the international community towards delegitimizing nuclear weapons and achieving their total elimination.
Algeria’s commitment to the nuclear disarmament efforts stems from its unique experience caused by the devastating nuclear tests conducted on its national territory by France.

Mr. President,

Algeria is convinced of the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

In this respect, we call on the remaining eight (8) annex II countries, to sign and ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

Algeria in its capacity as co-chair of the Article 14 Conference of the CTBT, from 2019 to 2021, spared no efforts, to work for the achievement of the entry into force of the CTBT, and will continue to do so.

Mr. President,

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is not only a confidence building measure, but a concrete step towards the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons.
The entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba, establishing a nuclear weapon-free zone in Africa shows the African continent's steadfast commitment to this goal as well as its collective will to lead by example.

We express the hope to see this example followed in other parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East.

In this context, Algeria welcome the convening of the first Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in November 2019.

We call on all invited parties to constructively participate in its second session, in November 2021, in order to negotiate a legally-binding Treaty that satisfies the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

Thank you for your kind attention.